PROJECT TITLE : PILOT-PLANT OPERATIONS

PERIOD COVERED : JUNE 22 - AUGUST 28 1981

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1. EQUIPMENT

1.1. Extract clean-up

Trials using the rented Sweco vibrator for cleaning up the extract at the outlet of the extractor gave good results.
It was decided to purchase this apparatus with a screen of 450 mesh.

1.2. Rotocell Extractor

1.2.1. The presence of nitrite in the extract during long periods of continuous extraction of strips (1) could be eliminated by adding acid in the feedwater.
This means that the pH of the extract was lowered from about 6.3 to about 5.0.

1.2.2. To obtain a more homogenous distribution of the extract on the strips, the showers of the extractor were replaced by those made in the FTR workshop.

1.3. Fermenter

Due to problems with the sterility of the fermenter the time of sterilization was increased.

2. MAINTENANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THE PILOT-PLANT

The maintenance of the equipment in the Pilot-Plant was carried out in July and August according to plan and was completed on August 28, 1981 (2).
All the equipment was cleaned and overhauled and is now ready for the next trial.

3. LABORATORY

A Siemens instrument was purchased to determine the humidity of tobacco.

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In order to know more precisely the amount of acid and base consumed during the trials with the 20-l fermenter, two Mettler balances were purchased.

4. PERSONNEL

The new operator started work on August 10 and has started his training programme.

5. REFERENCES

1. Lüthi-N : Monthly report (June 1981).
2. "Révision de l'installation-pilote NINO, juillet - août 1981", report from J. Brosy and R. Perrinjaquet, September 1981.

J. Dessouslavy

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